

IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 6. This sheet, which includes Fig. 6, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 6.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 8-9, 15, and 20-28 remain active in this case, Claims 8, 15, 20 and 23 having been amended and Claims 1-7, 10-14 and 16-19 canceled by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, the disclosure was objected to as including informalities requiring correction. Claims 1, 2, 6, 10, 11, 14 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Ogawa (U.S. 2004/0101720); Claims 3-5, 12, 13 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ogawa in view of Muller et al. (U.S. 6777116, hereinafter called “Muller”); Claims 7, 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ogawa in view of Kawasumi et al. (U.S. 2002/0045078, hereinafter called “Kawasumi”); and Claims 8, 9, 15 and 20-28 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but otherwise indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter. In response to this indication, and to expedite issuance of a patent from the present application, Claims 8, 15, 20 and 23 have been amended to be in independent form, thereby to place these claims and the remaining claims dependent therefrom in condition for allowance. Correspondingly, Claims 1-7, 10-14 and 16-19 have been canceled, leaving only claims including allowable subject matter pending in the present application. Therefore, subject to overcoming the other grounds for objection, it is believed that the outstanding grounds for rejection on the merits are moot, and the application is in condition for allowance.

In response to the objection to the disclosure, the specification has been amended at pages 24-26 to correct informalities identified in the outstanding Office Action and further

uncovered in Applicants' review of the specification. In that regard, Applicants point out that the reference numbers 102-107 indicate that more than one element (for example, the reference number 105 in FIG. 6 indicates the fuel cell system and the pipe). To correct such informalities, and to promote uniformity between the specification and drawings, the specification has been amended and a new replacement Figure 6 provided by the present amendment. The changes introduced by the above amendment to the specification and the submission of new Figure 6 correct informalities which are believed to be self-evident, and no new matter has been added.

Applicants also point out that a printing error in Applicants' published patent application 2004/0062961 (April 1, 2004) was made by the PTO, in paragraph [0061, line 21, corresponding to page 25, line 11 of the original specification. (The patent publication incorrectly referred to "10A", instead of 100A as stated in the specification.) To the extent that correction is possible, correction is respectfully requested.

Furthermore, Applicants remind the Examiner that an Information Disclosure Statement was filed in the application on May 31, 2006. Acknowledgement on the record of consideration of this IDS, and the references cited therein, is respectfully requested in the next Official Action.

Consequently, in view of the present amendments placing allowed claims in independent form, and in view of the correction of informalities by the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding, and the present application is believed to be

in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Eckhard H. Kuesters
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 28,870

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000

Fax: (703) 413 -2220

EHK:sjh

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